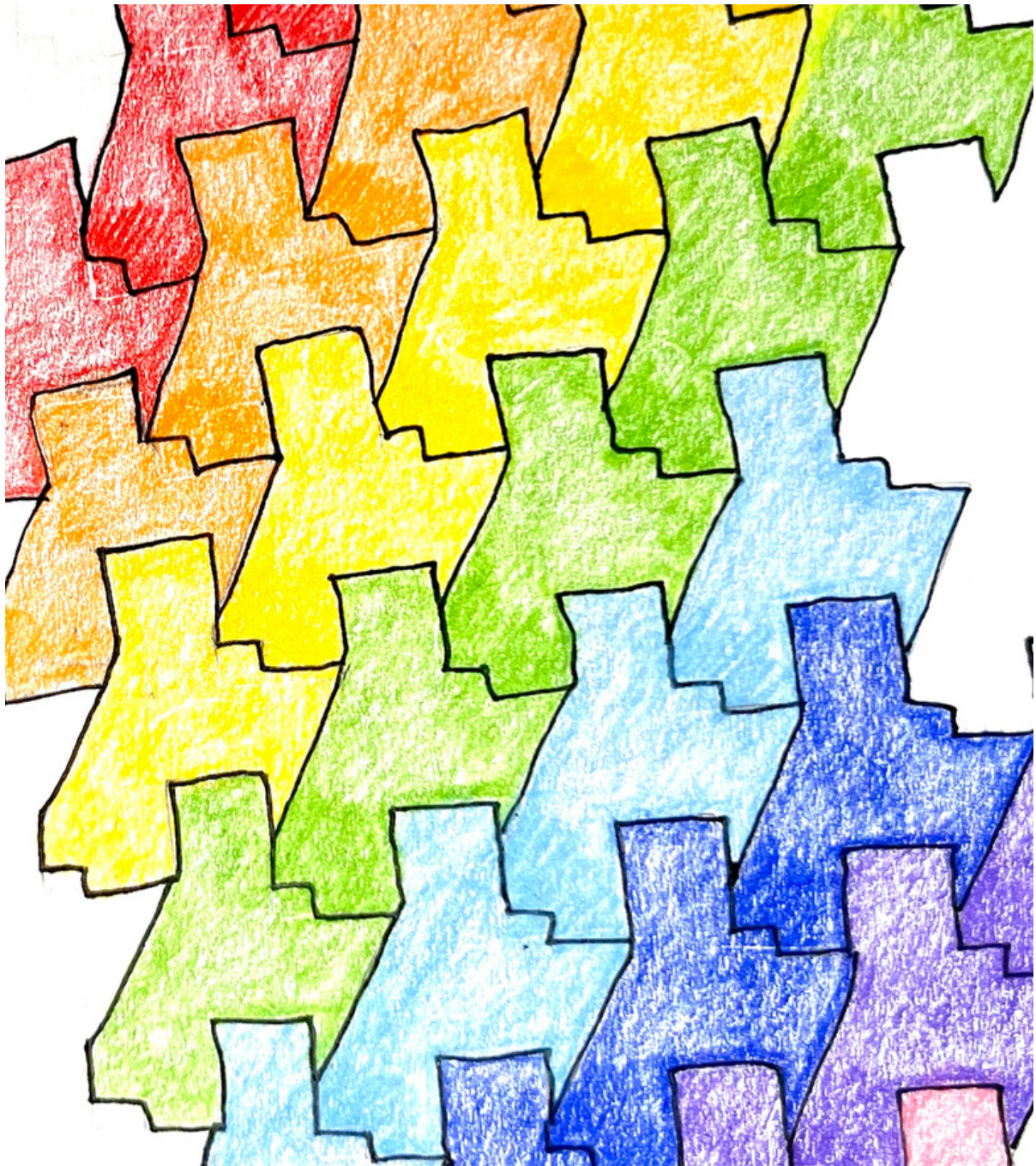


LINDA CHIDO ART Learn

A Brief History of Islamic Art Tessellation & Arabesque



Islamic Art

Islamic art encompasses the visual arts produced from the 7th century onward by people who lived within a territory that was inhabited by or ruled by culturally Islamic populations. It is a very difficult art to define because it covers many lands and various peoples over some 1,400 years. It is not art specifically of a religion, or of a time, or of a place, or a single medium like painting. It spans many mediums like architecture, calligraphy, illuminated manuscripts, painting, glass works, pottery, and textiles like carpets and embroidery. Though there are certain elements we can see across these mediums - arabesque and tessellation.

Arabesque and Tessellation

Both arabesque and tessellation have appeared in art for thousands of years. They first appeared in the ancient Sumerian civilization in approximately 4,000 BC. Arabesque and tessellation can also be seen in the art of the Egyptians, Persians, Romans, Greeks, Byzantines, Arabs, Japanese, Chinese and the Moors.

The Islamic artists were masters of arabesque and tessellation. They used thousands of years of patterns in new and unique ways. They held a belief that the use of geometry in art reflects the language of the universe and helps one to reflect on the greatness of creation.

To see how this belief was translated into architecture, take a virtual tour of the Alhambra in Granada, Spain: <https://www.alhambra.degranada.org/en/>

Arabesque is the use of geometrical floral or vegetal designs in repetition to produce an intricate pattern of interlaced lines. The arabesque in Islamic art is often used to symbolize the transcendent, indivisible and infinite nature of God. Arabesques are a fundamental element of Islamic art and was highly developed.

Tessellation is the use of repeated geometric designs to form intricate and complex patterns. The complexity and variety of patterns used evolved from simple stars in the 9th century to 16 pointed stars used in the 16th century. Distinctive Islamic tradition of glazed and brightly colored tiling for interior and exterior walls and domes in architecture developed in the 9th century. Though tessellation mostly occurs in mosaic and tile-work to decorate buildings, it can also be seen on carpets, ceramics, leather, stained glass, woodwork, and metalwork.

Make Your Own Tessellation

Now it's your turn.

1. Visit www.lindachido.com/learn
2. Watch my free, short tutorial on how to make a tessellation tile and drawing.
3. Share and tag me on social media:
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